

# EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

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## REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION ADOPTED AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON MAY 21st, 1925.

The last annual General Meeting having been held so recently as October 23rd last a few introductory words may be desirable explaining the reason for holding this meeting in May. Members are aware that the General Meeting of the Corporation has been hitherto held annually in October. But the Corporation's financial year ends on March 31st and the accounts are audited to that date. The result has been that the accounts presented to the meeting in October are then already six months old and the Administrative Council decided that it would be preferable if they could be submitted to a meeting in May. The annual General Meeting will therefore be held in future in the third week of May.

### PERSONNEL OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

The Council deeply regret to report the death since the last General Meeting of Mr. Joseph Cross, for whose valuable assistance as a member of both the Council and the Executive Committee, since the formation of the Corporation, they wish to record their deep indebtedness.

Under the terms of the Charter the bodies having power of nomination to the Council were asked to make such nominations afresh in February last, as their representatives had then held office for the maximum period of three years. Very few changes have in consequence been made in the personnel of the Council. Mr. J. E. Ashworth has been nominated by the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association in place of Mr. Addison and Mr. G. B. Zochonis has been nominated by the British Cotton Growing Association. Lt.-Comm. F. W. Astbury has taken the place of

Mr. J. H. Swallow, who has resigned, while Mr. J. C. Parker has been nominated in place of the late Mr. J. Cross. Dr. Ernest Goulding has been nominated to succeed Professor Dunstan as the nominee of the Imperial Institute, while Mr. J. H. Dimond, who has succeeded Mr. Canham as South African Trade Commissioner in this country, has also taken his place as the representative of the Union Government on the Council of the Corporation. The members who were co-opted to the former Administrative Council, together with Sir Francis Newton and Mr. Addison, have been co-opted to the present Council. In addition Mr. J. Duckworth, M.P. and Mr. J. Compton, M.P., have been co-opted on the nomination of the Lancashire Parliamentary Committee.

#### FINANCE.

Copies of the Revenue and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the financial year ended March 31st, 1925, are printed at the end of this report. It will be seen from the Revenue and Expenditure Account that the sum received in dividends from the investments representing the Capital Grant amounted to just under £44,000, being somewhat smaller than the sum received in the previous financial year. This is accounted for partly by the sale of certain investments and consequent alteration of the dates of payment of the dividends on the new investments, and partly by the fact that the dividends on the investments that were sold were received without deduction of Income Tax.

Pending a decision as to the liability of the Corporation to pay Income Tax, the sum given above represents that actually received in dividends from the investments representing the Capital Grant irrespective of whether these were paid with or without previous deduction of Income Tax.

To place the Corporation's claim in order, Income Tax on the dividends received tax unpaid has been paid, a claim for repayment has been lodged for all tax deducted or paid, and a statement of the Corporation's claim for exemption is being prepared by their solicitors.



# EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

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## REPORT OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

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The Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Corporation was held at the offices, Millbank House, Westminster, on Thursday, 21st May, 1925.

In the unavoidable absence of the President of the Corporation (the President of the Board of Trade), the Chair was taken by the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Derby, K.G., President of the Administrative Council.

The Secretary reported that comparatively few changes in the personnel of the Council had resulted in the re-nomination of the non-official members which took place in accordance with the By-Laws on the expiry of three years from the date of formation of the Council. Mr. Holroyd had been elected a Vice-President of the Council. The new members were Mr. J. E. Ashworth, Lt.-Comm. F. W. Astbury, M.P., Dr. E. Goulding, Mr. J. C. Parker, and Mr. G. B. Zochonis. Among the official members, Mr. J. H. Dimond had been nominated by the Government of the Union of South Africa to succeed Mr. A. Canham. The members who were formerly co-opted members of Council had again been co-opted, together with Mr. J. Duckworth, M.P., and Mr. J. Compton, M.P. (nominated by the Lancashire Parliamentary Committee), while Sir Francis Newton and Mr. Addison had also been co-opted as members of the Council.

THE EARL OF DERBY: Gentlemen, I am going to propose the resolution that the Report of the Administrative Council, with the Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Account of the Corporation audited up to 31st March, 1925, be approved and adopted.

You will see in the Report the reasons for holding our Annual Meeting in May instead of October, and I need not, therefore, occupy your time by going through them; it will be obvious, however, that, since my remarks cover a period of six instead of twelve months, I shall not have a great deal to say. Moreover, I am asking Mr. Brackenbury, a member of your Mechanical Transport Sub-Committee, to tell you something of the problem which that Committee are attempting to solve, and Colonel French, your Assistant Director, to say something about the journey he made in East Africa and India during the past winter.

I propose to confine my remarks to bringing the Report of the Council up-to-date in a few particulars.

The slight improvement in the cotton trade which I mentioned last October has continued, but it has not developed as fast as one hoped.

Meanwhile, the general interest in Empire-grown cotton has continued, and I can safely say that the coming crop will again exceed that of last year. According to the figures collected by the Corporation, the number of 400 lb. bales grown in the Empire, exclusive of India, were, in round figures:—

|            |     |     |     |     |         |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| In 1922/23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 169,000 |
| „ 1923/24  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 249,000 |

The estimated crop for these areas in 1924/25 is 350,000 bales, and, although I put forward some of these estimates with considerable caution, they certainly indicate a steady and satisfactory increase.

Before I leave this subject I should like to refer to a question asked recently in the House of Commons, which, although it did not refer directly to the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, is, I am sure, of general interest to the Corporation. It was to ask how far the increase in Empire-grown bales of cotton was attributable to the British Cotton Growing Association. In my opinion such a question, whether it referred



to the Corporation or to the British Cotton Growing Association, is quite impossible to answer definitely and accurately, now or at any time. It would be idle and foolish to pretend that the increase which I have mentioned is due entirely either to the Corporation or to the British Cotton Growing Association. The direct causes have been the scarcity and consequent high price of the raw material. That it has been possible to increase production so quickly has, I think, been due to the spade-work of these two bodies, and it is to the spade-work that we must look if the increased production is to continue, in spite of a supply that is more nearly equal to the world's demand and a consequent fall in price for the actual grower.

In Australia a good start has been made with the experimental farms mentioned in the Report, and I am glad to learn that most appreciative and informed accounts of the work on these farms have appeared in the Australian press. As you will remember, I laid stress last year on the particular necessity for research in Australia, where it is essential that the cotton grown should be of the highest quality owing to the necessarily high cost of production.

Mr. Evans, the representative of the Corporation in Queensland, has visited Fiji to report on its possibilities as a cotton growing area. He has now been asked by the Commonwealth Government to pay a visit to, and report similarly on, New Guinea.

In South Africa, until quite recently, the prospects were most favourable, but, as in most other parts of the world, there has been an abnormally heavy rainfall late in the season, and we do not yet know to how great an extent this will have had an unfavourable effect on the crop. Your representative, Mr. Milligan, is returning on leave shortly, and will be able to give you full information on this point. There are bound to be occasional set-backs of this sort in Africa, where the only regular feature of the climate may be said to be its irregularity, and where it has been said that the weather is abnormal every year. I do not think, however, that this need shake our faith in the future cotton-growing prospects of that Continent.

From Southern Rhodesia also most encouraging reports were received before the recent heavy rains, and it is likely that we shall see a marked increase in the cotton production there. The ginning machinery mentioned in the Report is believed to have reached Southern Rhodesia by now, and may be on the actual sites of the several factories.

You will remember that when last I addressed you I stated that the political situation in the Sudan was obscure. I need not remind you of the events which followed the murder in Cairo of Sir Lee Stack, the Governor-General, and it is too early for me to prophesy, or even to say that the situation is absolutely stable. As regards cotton, however, there has been continuous progress and endeavour, not only to develop the Gezira as an irrigated area, but to ascertain the possibilities of the Southern Sudan as a rain-grown cotton field. On the whole, the prospects in this direction are very promising, but great transport difficulties must be overcome before it will be possible to export large quantities of cotton from that area. At least we may feel certain that Sir Geoffrey Archer, the new Governor-General, will do everything in his power to make the Sudan rival Uganda, the Protectorate from which he came, in the matter of cotton production.

East Africa has been the subject of two reports of considerable interest to the Corporation, viz., that of the Parliamentary Commission which recently visited Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya; and that of Colonel French, who will tell you something of his trip. Both these reports are about to be considered by your East African Sub-Committee, with a view to framing specified recommendations in regard to this part of the Continent, and I need not, therefore, anticipate the work of the Sub-Committee. I consider, however, that the Report of the Parliamentary Commission is a monument of hard work by the three gentlemen during their journey. It is full of information and constructive advice regarding the areas visited, and I strongly recommend it to your attention. One member of the Commission, Mr. Ormsby-Gore, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State at the



Colonial Office, and he has, therefore, an exceptional opportunity of carrying out his recommendations. You will see that particular stress is laid in this Report on a point to which the Corporation have drawn the attention of successive administrations in the past, namely, on the early provision of increased transport facilities. I hope that if this Corporation can do anything to assist in providing extended transport facilities in East Africa, they will do so to the fullest extent that is within their power, for so far as I am aware, no report with such full local knowledge and with such a clear vision of what will help East Africa as a whole in regard to transport has previously been published.

Both the Commission and Colonel French are impressed with the possibilities of cotton growing in the Lake Victoria Basin. Uganda is now producing close on 200,000 bales, and the extent to which this amount is increased depends on the supply of labour, *i.e.*, of population, and on how far the yield per acre can be improved on the rich soil of that Protectorate. Much might be done by an improvement in the seed, a matter to which the Agricultural Department are paying attention, and no doubt your East African Sub-Committee will consider whether it is possible to offer further assistance to the Uganda Administration.

In Tanganyika, or at all events in Northern Tanganyika, the great difficulty is the enormous area which is rendered practically useless by the presence of bush infested with the tsetse fly. I understand that such bush-country, when cleared and cultivated, is not only freed of fly, but is usually found to have good soil, and I hope that the Colonial Office will consider with the Corporation whether it will be possible to combine governmental action with private capital and native agriculture to fight tsetse fly on a large scale.

I am glad to notice that the Commission have definitely contradicted the oft repeated accusation that Manchester has imposed cotton growing on the natives in her own interests. I have always thought that this was absurd, and have been

convinced that, though it might be possible to compel natives to grow a particular kind of crop for a year or two, it would be quite impossible to compel them not only to go on growing it, but to grow it in ever-increasing quantities, unless they rather liked the work, and found that it led to their being able to buy what they want.

In Nigeria, although there does not seem to be a prospect of a very large increase, still the progress is maintained.

I am glad to learn from Sir James Currie that he believes that he has found an excellent man to take charge of the first seed farm that will be established by the Corporation. This is most satisfactory, as it is hoped that subsequently an experienced farm manager will be able to train younger men to take charge of other farms.

Your Executive Committee are about to consider a Report on Trinidad as a possible site for a Central Research Station. This Report was made by Professor Farmer and Mr. Killby, your Secretary, who visited Trinidad during the winter, and I am glad to hear that this important matter has been carried a stage further.

Colonel French is going to tell you something of his visit to India, and I should only like to add that I welcome anything that will strengthen the ties between the Corporation and the Indian Central Cotton Committee. We are anxious to make the co-operation between that body and ourselves stronger and stronger as time goes on, and shall always be ready to do anything that we can to assist them at this end.

Finally, I would remind you that the constant need in all parts of the Empire is for trained men. I am glad to learn from Colonel French that the Uganda Administration are exceedingly pleased with the young men trained by the Corporation and sent to them last year, and consider them a strong and excellent reinforcement to the Agricultural Department in the Protectorate.



There is no doubt that the Corporation could place as many men as they train. It is satisfactory, therefore, to hear that the Executive Committee have agreed to accept this year as many candidates for Studentships as are found to be qualified and suitable for employment. Unfortunately it will be some years before our Students can be regarded as experts, and experts are the men most needed at this moment. I hope that the labours of the late Lord Milner's Committee, which is considering the needs of colonial agricultural services, will bear fruit in popularising and strengthening that service which is second to none in importance in tropical Africa and other fields where cotton can be grown. I should like to ask you to join with me in expressing our feelings of the loss to ourselves and to the Empire as a whole that we have sustained by the death of Lord Milner. Lord Milner was a personal friend and a colleague of mine. I know nobody who had at heart the interests of the Empire more than he had, and he did much to strengthen the ties that bind the various parts of the Empire together. We particularly owe to him the establishment of the Agricultural Department in South Africa, which will always remain a monument to what he did for the Empire, and is of inestimable benefit to those of us who wish to see cotton growing extended.

The standard of colonial agricultural services cannot be too high, and I am sure that the more use that is made of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad the better and higher will be that standard. The Corporation have already contributed generously to the College, and I would appeal to all who are interested in tropical agriculture to contribute towards the needs of the College.

Colonel French, the Assistant Director of the Corporation, gave a brief account of the recent tour which he made last winter on behalf of the Corporation, in East Africa and India. Most of his time was spent in Uganda; he also visited Tanganyika and Kenya, and subsequently paid a short visit to India at the invitation of the Indian Central Cotton Committee.

As regards Uganda, he attributed the remarkable progress that had been made to the co-operation of the Administrative, Agricultural, and other branches of the Public Service, under the guidance of successive Governors. He further paid a tribute to Mr. Simpson, Director of Agriculture, to whom the cotton-growing industry in Uganda owed so much. He added that in the Report which he was submitting to the Executive Committee many of the suggestions made were inspired by Mr. Simpson, and he hoped that he would approve of the manner in which they had been elaborated. He considered that the Protectorate's present strong position as a cotton-growing country should be consolidated by a more elaborate system of seed selection and distribution, and a reinforcement of her scientific agricultural staff. He considered that the Agricultural Departments ought themselves to produce and control a far larger volume of selected seed.

Colonel French also dealt with the difficulties and delays in exporting cotton from Uganda, which were not, however, on the roads. The delays were caused by successive transshipments and breakage of bulk on the railway and at the quays, while there were often not enough ships ready to carry the cotton arriving from the area tapped by the railway.

With regard to Tanganyika, lack of time prevented him from visiting more than the immediate neighbourhood of Mwanza. He was much impressed with the cotton-growing possibilities of that area, and he thought that its most urgent needs were (1) more and better roads, and (2) a strongly organised campaign against the tsetse fly, which is encroaching on grazing and cultivable country, and which greatly complicates the transport system. He considered that the fly could best be fought by systematic clearing and cultivation on a large scale.

His tour in India was of necessity too extensive and too rapid to be other than superficial. He was, however, very glad to take the opportunity to get into close touch with members of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, and to make himself more familiar with their admirable work. Although



no part of India which he visited could, in his opinion, grow cotton of the same high quality as that grown in Uganda and Tanganyika, he was confident that a steady improvement would be seen in the quality of Indian cotton, resulting from the combined work of the Indian Committee and the Agricultural Departments.

Mr. R. H. Brackenbury, a member of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Corporation to consider problems relating to the transport of cotton in the several parts of the Empire, gave a short account of the questions involved.

He explained the reasons which had led the Committee to the conclusion that the most promising solution of the question was to be found in the use of a vehicle with flexible tracks, which can travel over cleared land without roads.

He then gave a brief description of the general principles of construction of these vehicles, explaining that the feet, or plates on which the track moves, tend rather to flatten and consolidate the ground traversed, and not to cut it up as is the effect of the ordinary wheeled vehicle. They can, moreover, pass through soft and even swampy ground without difficulty, while the adhesion of the tracks enables such vehicles to drag a string of heavily laden trailers over ground so slippery, that the wheels of an ordinary tractor would spin round without advancing. The Corporation were carrying out a series of tests with two types of flexible track vehicles in this country, and were subsequently sending them to Nigeria where they would work under a competent driver-mechanic under the benevolent surveillance of the Nigerian Government. It was considered that by putting these vehicles to a thorough test in Africa, the Corporation were giving the most practical form of help to the solution of the problem of the transport of cotton in tropical countries.





The period covered by the accounts includes a full year's working of the Cotton Industry Act, with the result that the amount realised from the Levy amounted to £74,766. A sum of £3,030 was also received during the year under review as interest on investments made from income from this source.

The figure in the Balance Sheet for the excess of revenue over expenditure appears as £47,201. This does not, however, imply that this sum is a reserve or is available to meet future expenditure, for on the asset side of the Balance Sheet the sum entered as "Investments in respect of Revenue and Expenditure Account" includes, in addition to the investments of previous years, a sum of £23,151 which has been employed in the provision of capital for cotton-growing companies which are operating in South Africa while a final instalment of £10,000 will be payable shortly. The Council are of opinion that in certain countries the establishment of cotton-growing companies with the help of important interests will form a valuable means in the rapid development of the production of the raw material.

Turning now to the Revenue and Expenditure Account, the expanding scope of the Corporation's operations is reflected in the considerably increased expenditure during the financial year under review. Among other items it will be seen that £14,394 has been used in assisting in financing the erection of ginneries in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. Expenditure upon such objects as the supplementing of the agricultural staffs of the Colonies and the provision of experts in different branches of cotton growing, whether as scientific advisers or as managers of seed farms or in other capacities, unfortunately continues to be limited solely by the scarcity of suitably qualified men. In particular it is found to be extremely difficult to obtain for any scientific or agricultural post men who have had say eight or ten years' experience and who, therefore, might reasonably command a moderate salary. This shortage is, of course, due to the war, which has affected precisely the men of this type and of such an age that they would have been completing their University training about the time that the war broke out. Men can be found with long and specialised experience, who are naturally all in good posts and can only be attracted to leave them by the payment of rather large salaries and compensation for loss of any pension rights to

which they may have already become entitled. There are also, of course, men who have just completed their University and subsequent specialised training, many of them being the holders of Studentships from the Corporation. But the intermediate class is very scarce, and though the Corporation's Studentships undoubtedly form a valuable source from which the gap will eventually be filled, some few years must necessarily first elapse before these young men can have acquired experience of cotton sufficient to justify their inclusion in what has been called above the intermediate class.

Another new item on the expenditure side of the account is the cost of the Roadless Traction vehicle with trailer and light carts, and other expenses in connection with the experiments in the transport of cotton, by means of half-track vehicles, which the Corporation propose to carry out in Nigeria. Further reference to these experiments is made below.

#### INDIA.

It will be recollected that the Corporation undertook to arrange for spinning tests to be conducted on certain improved cottons supplied by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. These tests have been carried out by members of the Oldham Master Cotton Spinners' Association and the thanks of the Corporation are due to that body for the assistance they have been good enough to give in this matter. The results of the spinning tests were published in the April number of the Empire Cotton Growing Review and a supply of extra copies has been sent to the Indian Trade Commissioner for distribution at his discretion. A copy of the Empire Cotton Growing Review is sent to every spinning firm so that the results obtained with these improved Indian cottons will be brought to the notice of potential users in Lancashire.

At the conclusion of his visit to East Africa Colonel French proceeded to India. He arrived in Bombay on the 21st February, in time for the meeting of the Indian Central Cotton Committee which took place on February 23rd, 24th and 25th, and at which the Committee very kindly invited him to be present.



Subsequently he made an extensive, though necessarily hurried, journey through India and visited agricultural and experimental stations at Surat, Lyallpur, Dharwar and Coimbatore, where experiments connected with cotton cultivation are being carried out and different types of cotton are being improved by careful selection. He also visited the Agricultural Colleges at Lyallpur and Coimbatore and two large estates in the Punjab, including that of the B.C.G.A., Punjab, where an American type of cotton is being grown under irrigation on a large scale, the cultivators being tenants whose agricultural methods are organised and assisted by the landlord. The landlord also arranges for the marketing of the crop in bulk.

It is not possible in this report to enter into any details, but it is believed that Col. French's visit will be of real value to the Corporation, partly in strengthening the personal relations with the Indian Central Cotton Committee, the members of which showed him very great kindness and gave him much valuable, practical advice, and partly in enabling him to realise the methods by which the many problems and difficulties in cotton growing are in the process of being solved and overcome in India.

#### AUSTRALIA.

It was reported at the last General Meeting that the Corporation had agreed to contribute a sum of £3,000 a year for a period of five years towards current expenditure that would be incurred in connection with the maintenance of experimental farms. A letter has been received expressing the thanks of the Commonwealth Government for this contribution, but no details are yet to hand concerning the organisations proposed. It is understood, however, that Mr. Evans has all the arrangements in hand and it is believed that by this time the experimental stations are already at work. Periodical reports will be furnished to the Corporation by the Commonwealth Government.

#### SOUTH AFRICA.

The development that is taking place in South Africa is regarded by the Council as most satisfactory. The crop to be harvested in 1925 is estimated at approximately 20,000 bales,

as compared with 5,600 bales harvested last year. These figures indicate the widespread interest that is being taken in the extension of cotton cultivation, and a considerable further increase is hoped for next season. Mr. Milligan is to be congratulated both on the results so far achieved, and on the organisation which he is building up for future developments, including provision for the supply of improved seed and better conditions of marketing. At the same time Mr. Milligan has repeatedly laid stress on the remarkably sympathetic response of the Union Government, and of the officers of the Department of Agriculture in particular, to the efforts that the Corporation are making in South Africa. It is extremely gratifying to know that cordial relations exist between the Government officers and those of the Corporation, and the Council fully appreciate the whole-hearted co-operation which they are receiving from the Government of the Union.

The Executive Committee have already reported to Council that plant breeding work under Mr. Parnell is going on at Barberton, with a view to supplying a good medium-stapled variety which will be resistant so far as possible to the jassid. The needs of the middle veldt in respect of improved seed, are being cared for by Mr. Pullen, the Government Plant Breeder, at Rustenburg, whose chief object is to breed a variety for that district which will ripen before the first frost.

The Corporation have appointed two entomologists to work entirely on cotton pests in the Entomological Division of the Department of Agriculture, while a strong team of workers has been obtained to carry out experiments on soil chemistry.

Later in this report particulars are given of the Studentships which it has been decided to allocate this year to South Africa, with a view to strengthening the qualifications of junior officers of the Department of Agriculture and others interested in scientific cotton growing.

#### SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

At the request of the Rhodesian Government the Corporation have undertaken to send a Plant Breeder to Southern Rhodesia and they have selected for this appointment Mr. I. G. Hamilton,

a former holder of one of the Corporation's Studentships, who is at present working under Mr. Evans in Queensland. Mr. Hamilton will work under the general direction of Mr. Cameron and will take up his duties in September next.

Communications received from Mr. Cameron, the Corporation's Cotton Specialist in Southern Rhodesia, show that urgent steps needed to be taken in the supply of ginneries if adequate facilities were to be forthcoming for ginning this year's crop. As the result of a conference between the High Commissioner in this country, the Corporation, and the British Cotton Growing Association arrangements were made for these three bodies to share equally in advancing funds for the necessary number of ginneries to meet the present demands. The High Commissioner has ascertained that three ginneries will be required in addition to those established by private enterprise. The three ginneries will, it is understood, be erected respectively at Gatooma, Bindura, and at a site to be selected in the Lomagundi district. The ginning machinery was shipped from this country on the 19th February.

#### ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN.

At the last General Meeting it was reported that in consequence of the report by Sir John Russell and Dr. H. M. Leake on the organisation of scientific work bearing on agriculture in the Sudan the Corporation had undertaken to provide a Cotton Breeder so soon as a man with the necessary high qualifications could be found. They are pleased to be able to report that the appointment has now been accepted by Mr. M. A. Bailey, formerly head of the Botanical Staff of the Cotton Research Board, Giza. Mr. Bailey is returning to this country for a short period of intensive study leave at Cambridge and he will take up his appointment in the Sudan in August.

#### UGANDA, KENYA, TANGANYIKA.

Colonel French, during the winter, visited East Africa on the invitation of the Government of Uganda and has sent in a report which is now in the Director's hands.



He was greatly impressed with the rich agricultural possibilities of the territory in the Lake Victoria basin and particularly with the prospects of cotton growing in Uganda. At present one of the principal difficulties in the way of further expansion is shortage of labour. This is the result partly of the great increase in cultivation in both Kenya and Uganda, partly of public works, such as the extension of the Uganda Railway and the new harbour works of Kilindini, partly because African labour is casual and therefore inefficient and wasteful, and partly because many of the natives of the Uganda Protectorate have become rich—from an African's point of view—by growing cotton during years of abnormally high prices and are therefore disinclined to work as hired labourers.

This shortage will probably necessitate more intensive cultivation and thus a higher yield of cotton per acre, the present yield being very low for so rich a soil and so favourable a climate as are found in Uganda.

Colonel French also visited the Mwanza District of Tanganyika and the Kavirondo District of Kenya. The former of these areas is very promising, but at present is far less developed in the matter of communications, administrative staff, etc., than any part of Uganda. The native population is, however, large and industrious and this area would probably become very rich agriculturally if capital were available to develop it. In the Kavirondo area the type of cotton is not as good as in Uganda or Mwanza and the cotton growing industry is in its infancy in this part of the Colony. The amount grown at present has no effect on the labour problem, but the settlers are naturally anxious regarding its possible future results as their own farms, and notably their coffee plantations, are demanding more and more labour, on the supply of which they are dependent for their prosperity.

Another area in which cotton could be grown is in the coastal area of Kenya and the Tana River Valley. The difficulty in these areas is the extreme backwardness of the natives who at present have no wants other than the barest necessities of life.

In all the above-mentioned areas the chief necessity, in the opinion of Colonel French, is for seed farms and for a more highly organised system of seed selection and distribution.

#### NYASALAND.

When Mr. Sampson was in this country in October last he attended a meeting of the East African Sub-Committee, at which he drew attention to the necessity for providing an extra crop which could be grown at a profit to serve as a rotation crop with cotton. At present a rotation of crops is seldom practised because the high railway rates on maize, which would be the most suitable crop for the purpose, make its cultivation for export uneconomical. The result is that the yield of the cotton crop has suffered through inability to practise sound farming methods. Early this year it was announced that the freight on maize on the Trans-Zambesi Railway would be reduced to 20s. a ton and it is hoped that this will make it possible for first-quality maize to be exported from Nyasaland, at a profit to the growers.

Mr. McEwen, formerly assistant to the Corporation's Cotton Specialist in Tanganyika Territory, has been transferred to Nyasaland.

#### NIGERIA.

At the February meeting of Council it was reported that proposals had been received from the Director of Agriculture for the establishment of cotton seed farms in Nigeria, with a request that the Corporation would assist the scheme financially and provide the necessary staff. The desirability for providing means for ensuring that as pure seed as possible is distributed to native cultivators is emphasised by the fact that the yields per acre in Northern Nigeria, where cotton of the American type is now established, is very low. The Corporation have agreed to the Director of Agriculture's suggestion, but it is regretted that their efforts so far to find an experienced man to take charge of the first seed farm have not been successful. They are still continuing their enquiries and will do their utmost to provide the staff required, but they regard it as essential that supervision of the farm should be in competent hands to ensure its success, since the provision of pure seed is of the highest importance.

#### SIERRA LEONE.

Experiments have been carried out by the Agricultural Department with Allen's long staple cotton and the quality is reported to be excellent but, unfortunately, the yield per acre

has been very small indeed. It is suggested by the Agricultural Department that this may have been due to the crop having been planted too early, so that the bolls opened during the rainy season. Experiments on later planting will be tried next season. The Chiefs of the Northern Provinces have asked for seed again next year, in spite of the disappointing results last season, and the Governor also expresses his belief that it will be possible, by means of careful selection work, to improve considerably the native Quande variety.

The ginnery at Boia, presented by the British Cotton Growing Association, was opened in December last.

#### GOLD COAST.

At the request of the Governor the Corporation arranged for Mr. Faulkner, Director of Agriculture in Nigeria, to pay a visit in order to report on the possibility of cotton production in Togoland. In his report Mr. Faulkner points out that although the area visited by him would probably be suitable for cotton growing so far as climate and soil are concerned, the population is very sparse and there might be difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of water for an increased population. He is of opinion that the irrigation works that had been tentatively suggested would involve an almost prohibitive capital outlay.

#### Fiji.

At the request of the Fiji Government, Mr. Evans, the Corporation's representative in Queensland, paid a visit to the Islands to report on the possibilities of developing cotton growing there. His report contains many valuable suggestions which are now under the consideration of the Executive Committee. Mr. Evans suggests that Sea Island, Durango, and Meade should be the most promising varieties for trial in Fiji, but subsequent letters state that the Durango has not done well on an experimental scale. The Cotton Inspector favours Sea Island, which is the principal variety now grown there, as the most hopeful variety, but adds that Pima, with which he planted a small area, has also done quite well. In his report Mr. Evans advocates that a cotton specialist should be appointed and that he should train demonstrators locally, to advise the peasant cultivators.



## STUDENTSHIPS.

The lack of men adequately trained to act as agricultural officers in the colonies and dependencies has always constituted a serious obstacle to the rapid development of cotton growing. The Corporation, and before them the Empire Cotton Growing Committee of the Board of Trade, fully recognized this fact and every year since 1919 Studentships have been awarded to enable suitably qualified men to be trained in research methods, or to take advanced courses of instruction in those subjects that are of special importance to cotton growing. By means of these Studentships 19 men have already been trained, while 16 are in training this year. Of the 19 who have completed their training 9 have received appointments under the Corporation, 3 hold posts under the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, and 5 have received appointments under the Colonial Office in Nigeria, Uganda and Iraq. Nevertheless, there is still a shortage of well trained agriculturists and scientific specialists, such as entomologists and mycologists, and the Executive Committee have accordingly, for the second year in succession, put no limit to the number of Studentships to be offered, though they have stipulated definitely that the standard required shall in no way be lowered and that Studentships shall only be given to thoroughly qualified candidates. Two Senior and two Junior Studentships have been allocated this year to men in South Africa who will be selected by Mr. Milligan on behalf of the Corporation.

Mr. Milligan reports that the two Senior Students whom he recommends for appointment have been working during this season with Mr. Parnell, the Plant Breeder at Barberton, and with Mr. Pullen, the Plant Breeder at Rustenburg. Their Studentships will be tenable at The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, and on their return to South Africa they will take up posts in the Cotton Division of the Department of Agriculture. The two Junior Students have not yet been selected. They will spend their Studentship year in South Africa, probably working under the two Plant Breeders.

It is gratifying to report that the Colonial Office, realising that the men appointed hitherto to the Agricultural Departments of the Colonies and Protectorates have not in all cases possessed as full qualifications as are desirable if the work of those Departments is

to be thoroughly effective, have appointed a strong committee, under the Chairmanship of Lord Milner, to report on the status, pay and qualifications of officers of the Agricultural Departments. The Corporation look forward with the greatest interest to the publication of that Committee's report, which may possibly contain far-reaching recommendations. In their evidence before the Committee the representatives of the Corporation were emphatic in the view that the qualifications required of candidates for the Colonial Agricultural Departments were frequently insufficient, and that the pay and prospects of the service in general were wholly inadequate. It is, therefore, to be hoped that the Committee's Report will result in the conditions of the service being put on a more satisfactory basis.

#### RESEARCH.

At the December Meeting members of the Council learned that the question of the establishment of a Central Cotton Research Station was being carefully investigated by the Executive Committee and that, in consequence of a report from Dr. Leake, the Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, Professor Farmer, accompanied by the Secretary, were about to visit Trinidad to ascertain its suitability as a site for a Cotton Research Station. The result of their tour was that they fully confirm Dr. Leake's view that although Trinidad, as a whole, is less suited to cotton growing on a commercial scale than to other tropical products, there is a tract of land in the immediate neighbourhood of the College which is particularly well-suited to the experimental cultivation of the crop. Professor Farmer's and Mr. Killby's report is now about to be carefully considered by the Executive Committee.

#### MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.

It will be remembered that it was reported at the last Annual General Meeting that the Executive Committee had adopted the recommendation of the Mechanical Transport Sub-Committee that two experimental "track" vehicles should be sent for trial in Nigeria. The Mechanical Transport Sub-Committee decided that the vehicles should undergo a trial over a course of about 1,000

miles in England before they were despatched to Nigeria, in order to ascertain and rectify any small faults that became manifest after the vehicles had covered a considerable mileage.

With the kind consent of the Aldershot Command a course of forty miles, over open and sandy country, was mapped out, which included several steep hills. The Guy Roadless Traction vehicle has now completed its trial, and after it has been overhauled by the makers, it will be shipped to Nigeria. There has been considerable delay in the delivery of the Burford Kegresse 2-ton lorry, as Messrs. Burford were unable to secure some of the necessary parts of the Kegresse attachment. This vehicle is now about to start on its trial at Aldershot. A driver mechanic has been engaged to go out to Nigeria in charge of the vehicles, in the person of Mr. S. W. Darker. Mr. Darker has had some ten years' experience of mechanical transport in Eastern Africa, including service with the East African Transport Corps during the war in German East Africa.

The Corporation is indebted to the Government of Nigeria for their offer to allow the departments concerned to co-operate in ensuring that an adequate test shall be made of these vehicles when they arrive in the Colony.

#### THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION (1924).

Since the last General Meeting the Exhibition at Wembley has been closed and it therefore has now to be reported that the total nett cost of the raw cotton exhibit amounted to £4,617, of which the Corporation's share was £1,749. The four exhibiting bodies, namely the Corporation, the British Cotton Growing Association, and the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations have decided not to exhibit again this year. The collection of samples of the various types of cotton grown within the Empire have been preserved intact and presented to the British Cotton Industry Research Association at Didsbury, where it will be available for examination by those interested in Empire-grown cottons.



# THE EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, Year ended 31st March, 1925.

| To EXPENDITURE ABROAD.                                                                     |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|------------|
|                                                                                            | £       | s.  | d.  | £        | s.  | d.  |            |
| <i>Tanganyika</i> —                                                                        |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Salaries and Passages                                                                      | 2,068   | 19  | 0   |          |     |     |            |
| Local Travelling, Labour and Materials                                                     | 135     | 18  | 10  |          |     |     |            |
| <i>Nyasaland</i> —                                                                         |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Salaries and Passages                                                                      | 2,828   | 9   | 1   |          |     |     |            |
| Local Travelling, Labour and Materials                                                     | 186     | 10  | 3   |          |     |     |            |
| Cotton Experiment Station                                                                  | 1,196   | 8   | 8   |          |     |     |            |
| <i>Australia</i> —                                                                         |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Salaries and Passages                                                                      | 2,384   | 1   | 6   |          |     |     |            |
| <i>South Africa</i> —                                                                      |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Salaries and Passages                                                                      | 5,722   | 7   | 1   |          |     |     |            |
| Senior Cotton Specialist part payment in compensation for loss of pension rights...        | 3,500   | 0   | 0   |          |     |     |            |
| Amount advanced to Spelonken (Transvaal)                                                   |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Cotton Syndicate Limited, being cost to date of purchase and erection of Ginning Machinery | 9,132   | 16  | 7   |          |     |     |            |
| Cotton Prizes                                                                              | 175     | 0   | 0   |          |     |     |            |
| Local Travelling, Labour and Materials                                                     | 91      | 4   | 8   |          |     |     |            |
| <i>Sudan</i> —                                                                             |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Tour and Report of Sir John Russell and Dr. Leake—Balance                                  | 384     | 19  | 3   |          |     |     |            |
| <i>West Indies</i> —                                                                       |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Salaries, Passages and Cost of Experimental Work                                           | 906     | 9   | 0   |          |     |     |            |
| Grant to Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture                                          | 500     | 0   | 0   |          |     |     |            |
| Donation to Special Appeal Fund of College of Tropical Agriculture                         | 2,000   | 0   | 0   |          |     |     |            |
| <i>Uganda</i> —                                                                            |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Salaries and Passages                                                                      | 1,362   | 13  | 4   |          |     |     |            |
| Ploughs presented to Uganda Government                                                     | 1,488   | 7   | 5   |          |     |     |            |
| <i>Rhodesia (Southern)</i> —                                                               |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Salaries and Passages                                                                      | 436     | 3   | 3   |          |     |     |            |
| Share (one-third) of cost to date of purchase of Machinery for three Ginneries             | 5,261   | 6   | 2   |          |     |     |            |
| <i>Rhodesia (Northern)</i> —                                                               |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| Cotton Prizes...                                                                           | 10      | 16  | 2   |          |     |     |            |
| Carried forward                                                                            | £39,772 | 10  | 3   |          |     |     |            |
|                                                                                            |         |     |     | £        | s.  | d.  |            |
| By Cotton Levy                                                                             | ...     | ... | ... | ...      | ... | ... |            |
| " Interest and Dividends—                                                                  |         |     |     |          |     |     |            |
| From Investments representing the Capital Grant                                            | ...     | ... | ... | 43,988   | 1   | 11  |            |
| From Investments made from Surplus Income                                                  | ...     | ... | ... | 3,030    | 18  | 8   |            |
| " Bank Interest                                                                            | ...     | ... | ... | ...      | ... | ... | 47,019 0 7 |
| " Sales of Reports                                                                         | ...     | ... | ... | ...      | ... | ... | 226 5 3    |
|                                                                                            |         |     |     | ...      | ... | ... | 13 9 0     |
|                                                                                            |         |     |     | £        | s.  | d.  |            |
| Carried forward                                                                            | ...     | ... | ... | £122,025 | 11  | 11  |            |

THE EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, Year ended 31st March, 1925—continued.

[illegible]

# THE EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

## BALANCE SHEET, 31st March, 1925.

| LIABILITIES.                                                                                                                            |     | £       | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £       | s. | d.              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|----|----|---|----|----|---------|----|-----------------|
| CAPITAL GRANT from Imperial Government                                                                                                  |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    |                 |
| Sundry Creditors                                                                                                                        | ... | 978,715 | 0  | 0  |   |    |    | 666     | 11 | 0               |
| REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.                                                                                                        |     | 15,112  | 19 | 5  |   |    |    | 180     | 12 | 8               |
| Balance at 31st March, 1924                                                                                                             | ... | 95,973  | 11 | 5  |   |    |    |         |    |                 |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure,                                                                                                      |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    | 485 18          |
| Year ended 31st March, 1925                                                                                                             | ... | 47,201  | 12 | 2  |   |    |    | 978,048 | 9  | 0               |
|                                                                                                                                         |     |         |    |    |   |    |    | 146,248 | 10 | 11              |
|                                                                                                                                         |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    | 1,124,296 19 11 |
|                                                                                                                                         |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    | 1,013 8 10      |
| SUNDRY DEBTORS                                                                                                                          |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    |                 |
| CASH AT BANKERS—                                                                                                                        |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    |                 |
| Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd., Manchester                                                                                                | ... |         |    |    |   |    |    | 436     | 18 | 9               |
| Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd., London                                                                                                    | ... |         |    |    |   |    |    | 2,100   | 19 | 3               |
| British Overseas Bank                                                                                                                   | ... |         |    |    |   |    |    | 7,992   | 17 | 3               |
|                                                                                                                                         |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    | 10,530 15 3     |
|                                                                                                                                         |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    | 676 0 8         |
| Cash in hand—London and Abroad                                                                                                          |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    |                 |
| THE ASSETS OF THE CORPORATION ALSO                                                                                                      |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    |                 |
| INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING, THE COST OF                                                                                                      |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    |                 |
| WHICH HAS BEEN CHARGED TO REVENUE:                                                                                                      |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    |                 |
| Tractor and Trailers for Transport                                                                                                      | ... |         |    |    |   |    |    | 899     | 19 | 0               |
| Experiments                                                                                                                             | ... |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    |                 |
| Ginning Machinery for three Ginneries in Southern Rhodesia (One-third of outlay to date)                                                | ... |         |    |    |   |    |    | 5,261   | 6  | 2               |
| Amount advanced to Spelonken (Transvaal) Cotton Syndicate, Ltd., on account of purchase of Ginning Machinery and erection of Ginnery... | ... |         |    |    |   |    |    | 9,132   | 16 | 7               |
|                                                                                                                                         |     |         |    |    |   |    |    | £15,294 | 1  | 9               |
|                                                                                                                                         |     |         |    |    |   |    |    |         |    | £1,137,003 3 0  |

We have audited the above Balance Sheet and the Revenue and Expenditure Account, and certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with. We report to the members that in our opinion the accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Corporation's affairs as shown by the books of the Corporation.

(Signed) DAVID SMITH, GARNETT & CO.,  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, MANCHESTER.

25th April, 1925.



**EMPIRE COTTON CROPS FOR SIX YEARS 1918-24 EXCLUDING INDIA**

IN BALES OF 400 lbs.

| COUNTRY.          | 1918-19. | 1919-20.                  | 1920-21.                  | 1921-22.                  | 1922-23.                  | 1923-24.                  | 1924-25.<br>Estimates.    |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sudan             | 15,997   | 23,160                    | 30,519                    | 24,074                    | 28,306                    | 47,652                    | 55,286                    |
| Gold Coast        | 52       | —                         | 61                        | 49                        | 15                        | 93                        | —*                        |
| Nigeria           | 17,500   | 16,200                    | 30,000                    | 15,096                    | 16,811                    | 25,534                    | 30,000                    |
| Uganda            | 36,530   | 47,694                    | 81,365                    | 48,290                    | 88,046                    | 128,604                   | 170,000                   |
| Kenya             | 100      | 100                       | 500                       | 417                       | 1,200                     | 1,653                     | —*                        |
| Nyasaland         | 2,591    | 2,026                     | 4,615                     | 5,422                     | 4,036                     | 3,000                     | 3,000                     |
| Northern Rhodesia | 56       | 35                        | 100                       | 80                        | 102                       | 500                       | 3,000                     |
| Southern Rhodesia | —        | —                         | —                         | —                         | —                         | 1,650                     | 20,000                    |
| Tanganyika        | —        | —                         | 7,500                     | 7,327                     | 7,175                     | 11,434                    | 15,000                    |
| South Africa      | 1,911    | 2,737                     | 2,923                     | 2,740                     | 6,523                     | 8,730                     | 20,000                    |
| West Indies       | 6,137    | 6,205                     | 4,833                     | 4,113                     | 5,254                     | 4,256                     | 4,000                     |
| Queensland        | 31       | 38                        | 792                       | 3,140                     | 9,344                     | 11,850                    | 25,000                    |
| Cyprus            | 1,000    | 3,325                     | 2,687                     | 2,547                     | 1,505                     | 2,233                     | 2,155                     |
| Malta             | 315      | 343                       | 266                       | 582                       | 193                       | 118                       | 433                       |
| Iraq              | —        | —                         | 60                        | 60                        | 300                       | 1,100                     | 2,200                     |
| Fiji              | —        | —                         | —                         | —                         | 83                        | —                         | —*                        |
| Ceylon            | —        | —                         | —                         | —                         | 149                       | 324                       | 300                       |
|                   | 82,220   | 101,863                   | 166,221                   | 113,937                   | 168,942                   | 248,731                   | 350,374                   |
|                   |          | Percentage Increase 24.0. | Percentage Increase 63.1. | Percentage Decrease 31.4. | Percentage Increase 48.2. | Percentage Increase 47.2. | Percentage Increase 40.8. |

\* No estimates as yet received.







